

# **Maurice Hinchey NEWS**

## **26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK**

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### **HINCHEY APPLAUDS EPA DECISION TO GO FORWARD WITH HUDSON RIVER CLEANUP**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its decision to go forward with its plan for a comprehensive cleanup of the Hudson River. Hinchey made the following comments following EPA's announcement that it had transmitted its Record of Decision (ROD) to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

"This long-awaited decision is most welcome. The plan announced today will allow us to begin relieving the Hudson River of the toxic burden it's been suffering under for decades. It is appropriate to protect the river communities by including in the ROD performance standards for air quality and noise. I am also pleased to see that additional performance standards will be developed in an open and public process. I will be closely monitoring this phase of the planning.

"The Environmental Protection Agency under both the Clinton and Bush administrations deserves a great deal of praise for its work on this important issue. Carol Browner made a groundbreaking decision last year and Christie Whitman has withstood a great deal of pressure in sticking to that decision. I am particularly grateful to the staff of EPA's Region II office for the painstaking work they have done in bringing us to this point."

Over a period of thirty years, General Electric dumped over one million pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) directly into the Hudson River from its facilities in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, NY. A decade of independently examined scientific studies has determined that the PCBs will continue to pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment unless they are removed. Hinchey has led the effort to rid the river of these toxins.